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**GOVERNOR MAPP ORDERS THE REMOVAL
OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE FLAG
FROM BOTH VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL GUARD ARMORIES**

(St, Thomas, USVI –July, 13, 2015) Governor Kenneth E. Mapp has ordered General Renaldo Rivera, Adjutant General of Virgin Islands National Guard, to remove from the armories on St. Croix and on St. Thomas, the Mississippi State flag and turn it over to the Governor's office for return to the state of Mississippi. Nationally there has been much discussion and debate regarding the Confederate Flag, which most was removed from flying over the state capital of South Carolina.

“While the Confederate Flag has its place in United States history, the negative affect that it has on people of color, particularly African-Americans, and its symbolism of hate, are the two things that many do not question. The elected officials of the state of South Carolina have made their decision on the Confederate flag and have relegated it to a museum, where it belongs. The symbolism of hate that the Confederate flag represents has no place in a territory whose population is predominantly made up of people of African descent. We are very hopeful that the elected leaders of Mississippi will come to a similar conclusion as their colleagues in South Carolina did and vote to remove the Confederate flag from flying above the state.” the Governor concluded.

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